

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MOTION

Resolution of Support for the Maricopa County Regional Transportation Plan

A Resolution of the State Transportation Board supporting the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) of the Maricopa Association of Governments developed in cooperation with the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Whereas in accordance with Title 28, Chapter 17, Article 1 of the Arizona Revised Statutes the Maricopa Association of Governments developed a Regional Transportation Plan in Maricopa County with the Department of Transportation and the Regional Public Transit Authority, and

Whereas the State Transportation Board policies emphasize the need for “an integrated, balanced, safe multi-modal county transportation system that serves the mobility needs of people, services and goods in Arizona, and

Whereas the State Transportation Board also seeks to ensure that this transportation system serves all areas of the State, Maricopa County and all segments of the population, and

Whereas to ensure the movement of people and goods to and through the region, which can be most effectively achieved by keeping the interstate highway system operating safely, efficiently and effectively, and

Whereas keeping highway corridors operating at a high level of efficiency will require capacity improvements, in addition to capacity improvements planned for other regional freeway corridors and the addition of new corridors or loops to help divert traffic away from the more congested core areas, and

Whereas, the increases in population and travel will continue to be significant challenges to the Maricopa region and no single mode of transportation can address the challenges of this region, especially in highly developed areas where new freeways or expanding freeways or arterial streets are not practical, and

Whereas the State Transportation Board supports transit and arterial street concepts to strengthen and support infrastructure development, and

Whereas, the RTP builds on the success of the Regional Freeway Program implemented by the Arizona Department of Transportation and provides essential additional lanes and multi-modal elements to the freeways, such as HOV lanes and park and ride lots, and

Whereas, the RTP recognizes the need to address bottleneck congestion on the existing freeway system and provides funding early in the program to address these bottleneck areas, and

Whereas, growth throughout the region requires new freeways and additional interchanges be constructed to accommodate the doubling of the population by 2030 and the RTP provides funds for these needed interchanges, and

Whereas, the connection of the Maricopa region to other areas of the State are vitally important to have a vibrant economy throughout the State and the RTP provides significant improvements to gateway routes such as State Route 85, U.S. 60, and I-10 and I-17, and

Whereas, the Arizona Department of Transportation is committed to building neighborhood friendly freeways and the RTP recognizes this important component by providing \$75 million for rubberized asphalt and neighborhood mitigation measures, and

Whereas, the RTP recognizes the need for providing needed maintenance funding for new and existing freeways and has dedicated \$279 million towards these maintenance needs, and

Whereas, HB2292 requires that the Regional Transportation Plan consider the impact of growth and the transportation system in contiguous counties; and to address this requirement, ADOT, the Central Arizona Associations of Governments and MAG jointly conducted a study of these impacts, including future routes needed in Pinal County and these Pinal County routes will be considered in the ADOT long range statewide plan required by ARS 28-307 to be adopted by the State Transportation Board on or before December 31, 2004, and

Whereas the State Transportation Board moves to endorse the RTP unanimously recommended by the MAG Transportation Policy Committee and approved by the MAG Regional Council, and authorizes ADOT staff to continue to work with the MAG staff and the MAG Transportation Policy Committee to further refine the plan. Furthermore, in accordance with Title 28, Chapter 17, Article 1 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, to develop an accurate budgeting process that ensures that estimated costs for highway components funded by the proceeds of the Transportation Excise Tax election do not exceed the total amount of revenues estimated to be available for the plan, now therefore

Be it resolved that the State Transportation Board strongly supports the cooperatively developed multi-modal Regional Transportation Plan of the Maricopa Association of Governments developed through the Transportation Policy Committee on September 17, 2003 and unanimously approved for an air quality conformity analysis by the MAG Regional Council on September 24, 2003.

Passed and adopted by the State Transportation Board of the Arizona Department of Transportation this 17th day of October 2003.

**Ingo Rodicke, Chairman
State Transportation Board**

Attest:

Victor Mendez, ADOT Director